THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) State Government's report is awaited.

(b) and (c) Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of States Government's report.

Assistance to Philanthropic Institutions

1804. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Stool Testing Division of Hoffland Health Institution located in Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi has been undertaking loboratory testing of stools at a nominal fee with Home service for prevention of Intestinal Disorders amongst the children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide some financial assistance to this Institution to further reduce their nominal charges to enable people below poverty line to avail of this facility at their door steps; and

(d) whether such financial assistance would also be extended to other philanthropic Institutions to come forward for human cause to lessen the burden of government Hospitals and to discourage commercial activities of Private Nursing Homes to larger extent ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) This is a private laboratory and the Government does not regulate its charges.

(c) and (d) Government has no proposal to assist such private laboratories.

Supply of Medicines to Bihar

1805. DR. RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI' : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has requested for supply of medicines from Medical Stores Organisation for implementing the various health programmes effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the medicines have been supplied by the Medical Store Organisation as and when demanded; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (d) Government of Bihar indents medicines from Medical Stores Organisation from time to time.

Indents for 307 items were received during the current year, of which 78 items were not in the approved list.

Of the remaining 229 items 196 have already been supplied.

Functioning of Nursing Schools in the Country

1806. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of nursing schools functioning in the country, how many of them are recognised, with details thereof State-wise and what steps have been taken to curb mushroom growth of unrecognised nursing schools ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : The information provided by the Indian Nursing Council is appended as Statement [*See* below]. The Council have informed the State Governments that prior aproval of the Council should be obtained before starting any nursing school/ College.